

REMARKS

In the present amendment, claims 6 and 9 have been amended and claims 1, 2, 3, 7, and 8 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 6, 9, and 10 are pending in the application with claims 6 and 9 being independent.

Applicant notes that the present amendments have been made to rewrite previously presented claims 6, 9, and 10 in independent form.

Response to Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 6, 9, and 10 for being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicates that the objected claims “would be allowed if presented in independent form.” (Office Action, page 2, second paragraph)

In response, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6, 9, and 10 have been rewritten in independent form, wherefore withdrawal of the objections to claims 6, 9, and 10 is respectfully requested.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,479,309 to Tolson, hereinafter “TOLSON.”

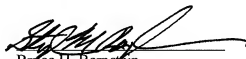
Applicants submit that in an attempt to advance prosecution of the application and without expressing agreement with or acquiescence to the rejection, claims 1-3, 7 and 8 have been cancelled, which renders the rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections of record, and allow each of the pending claims. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that an early indication of allowance of the application be indicated by the mailing of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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